

# State Representative Scott E. Reske

Helping Hoosier Families

113th Indiana General Assembly, Spring 2004

## Session Report

### NOTICE:

State Rep. Scott E. Reske has been called on active duty for 60 days until the end of May with the U.S. Marine Corps in support of operations in Haiti.

During this time, you can reach his legislative assistant on either the toll-free state-house telephone number of 1-800-382-9842 or through his direct line at 317-232-9695.

State Sen. Tim Lanane (D-Anderson) can also be contacted for assistance at 1-800-382-9467.

State Rep. Scott E. Reske serves as a Lt. Col. in the United States Marine Corps Reserves. He has served more than 22 years on active duty or in the reserves.



### Property Tax Relief



### Protecting Children



### Job Creation





## 113th General Assembly Ends

Dear Friends,

Now that the 2004 short session of the Indiana General Assembly has ended, I would like to update you on several important pieces of legislation which were passed.

I hope you find this information useful, and will contact my office if there is anything further that you would like information about.

Sincerely,



# Property Tax Reform, Economic Development Passed in Reske Bill

In November of 2003, legislators passed Senate Enrolled Act 1, which contained nearly **\$500 million in property tax cuts for homes, businesses and farms**.

When lawmakers returned in January, efforts resumed to address the property tax situation by reevaluating the current system that is in place and by giving tax relief to the people who needed it the most.

A primary vehicle for those changes was House Enrolled Act 1005, authored by Rep. Scott E. Reske.

### Property Tax Relief

HEA 1005 requires that people who are buying or refinancing their homes be given property tax deduction and credit information at closing. It will also require the legislature to explore alternatives for funding local government through a Property Tax Replacement Study Commission.

Under HEA 1005, counties will also be required to provide a more detailed accounting of how property taxes are being distributed so taxpayers know how their money is being spent.

HEA 1005 establishes a Local

Government Efficiency and Financing Study Commission to evaluate proposals which would transfer the functions of township government to county government to reduce government waste and inefficiency.

### Economic Development

Perhaps the most important component of HEA 1005 is the ways in which it will help Madison County establish itself as a hub for high-tech research and development.

The counties along the I-69 corridor from Madison to Allen County are considered to be the next great area for growth in technology, given their accessibility to Indianapolis and other major cities throughout the Midwest. This bill provides tax abatements for new equipment involving information technology and logistics.

In a separate bill, huge strides were made for those who have been hit the hardest by the property tax reassessment. Senate Enrolled Act 296 contains **substantial property tax deductions for seniors on lower incomes, veterans, the blind and disabled**, as well as those who are rehabilitating their homes.

## Additional Bills Passed Into Law

Other significant bills passed by the General Assembly include:

House Bill 1229, The Indiana Homeowner Protection Act, places **tougher restrictions on the practice of predatory lending**. Homeowners will be protected from overpriced loans with unreasonable terms that often are impossible to pay back, placing people at risk of losing their homes through foreclosure.

House Bill 1178 will create a program **permitting volunteers to be appointed as advocates for seniors** who are incapacitated or at least 65 years of age.

# Helping Hoosier Families



## Reske Protecting Children

**D**uring the 2004 session, several child protection bills were passed which address child abuse and neglect as well as collecting delinquent child support.

• **House Bill 1194** requires that criminal history checks be done when kids are removed from their homes and placed in protective care. It also allows Child Protective Services to monitor cases where abuse or neglect is "indicated," but not necessarily "substantiated."

Increased public disclosure will also be required in cases where a child dies as a result of abuse or neglect. A child fatality review team will be created under the bill to investigate sudden and/or unexpected deaths of children.

• **House Bill 1245** will increase the penalties for neglect of a dependent to a Class A Felony if the neglect results in the death of a child.

Penalties will also be increased for contributing to the delinquency of a minor if an adult provides alcohol or a controlled substance to a minor and that act is determined to have caused the death of any person.

• **Senate Bill 194** will provide added protections for all children in a home where abuses have taken place.

• **House Bill 1029** will allow custodial parents to bring a court action to recover delinquent child support payments by intercepting state income tax returns of parents who owe the support.



## Hoosiers Gain Access to Affordable Prescription Drugs

Legislators worked hard this session to protect Hoosiers from the rising costs of prescription drugs.

Under House Enrolled Act 1265, more than **400,000 Hoosiers will gain access to affordable prescription drugs**, with many more qualifying in years to come.

This bill enables the state to set up an aggregate prescription drug purchasing program to negotiate the prices of prescription drugs from

pharmaceutical companies.

**Indiana will also be able to enter into joint purchasing agreements with other states, gaining added bargaining power.**

People who are eligible for the program will receive the savings when they fill their prescriptions at their local drugstores.

This program will simplify the lives of many and improve the conditions for people on fixed and limited incomes.



# Helping Hoosier Families



Representative Scott E. Reske hosts a group of Marines at the Statehouse in support of House Concurrent Resolution 35, honoring men and women serving in the United States Armed Forces.

## Contact Representative Scott E. Reske

District 37

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## Creating Hoosier Jobs

Protecting and creating Hoosier jobs and businesses were among the issues of most concern in the 2004 General Assembly.

**House Resolution 47** calls on the president and Congress to address a growing trade imbalance that has resulted in the loss of more than 2 million manufacturing jobs in the U.S. since 2001. It asks that trade agreements require that corporations pay fair and competitive wages, respect the rights of workers to unionize, and adopt workplace safety and anti-pollution standards equal to those in our country. The resolution also encourages the federal government to provide economic incentives to sectors that have seen record job losses due to NAFTA.

**House Bill 1080** will help stimulate Indiana's economy by providing a price preference to Indiana businesses for public works and procurement contracts. This bill will focus on Indiana companies first as suppliers for goods and services the state is interested in purchasing.

**House Bill 1434** will benefit low-income businesses by fostering economic development opportunities through grants for training and technical assistance. The microenterprise partnership program created under the bill will provide assistance to businesses with fewer than five employees.

**House Bill 1365** will make the state's research and development tax credit permanent, extend the life of the Hoosier Business Investment Tax Credit and create a new fund to encourage investment in new technology. It also calls for a study of eliminating corporate tax loopholes in Indiana law that currently cause tax increases on Hoosier homeowners and businesses.

## Rep. Scott E. Reske

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